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State Delegate Candidate: North Carolina

Statement 2

NASP Leaders have adopted five strategic goals that guide the association's work. In your state, what are some gains being made in school psychology practice related to these goals, and what are some pressing challenges?

NASP's second strategic goal is addressing the workforce shortage. In North Carolina, I have worked with the state association to help educate legislators, advocates, media reporters, and those in charge of education about the shortages and potential solutions. I have worked with Public Schools First NC to create a webinar that shared challenges and possible solutions to recruitment and retention. The state superintendent and board of education members placed recruitment and retention efforts for school psychologists as one of their top legislative priorities. House Bill 749, which focused on recruitment and retention for school psychologists, had forty-four bipartisan co-sponsors. North Carolina legislators submitted a data request to the school psychology training programs to determine potential barriers and solutions to increasing the number of students in each program and innovative ways to create more programs.

NASP's third strategic goal is developing leadership in school psychologists at the local, state, and national levels. In North Carolina, the state association has attempted to maintain two different leadership collaboratives. Although each collaborative lasted for approximately a year, the state association could not maintain or build upon each cohort. The state's challenges are being able to capitalize on the expertise of school psychology leaders that are extremely busy in their work. The association has seen an increase in leaders of the field by indirectly developing leadership skills through the growth of members serving as members on various committees.